

several cases—in swallows and some other families—the same species winters much farther north in the Pacific than in the Caribbean lowlands, or may even have two different winter ranges, but much remains to be learned.

On the validity of *Coracias caudata suahelica* Neumann, 1907

by P. A. CLANCEY

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Since its description in 1907 *Coracias caudata suahelica* Neumann, the type-locality Usagara, Tanganyika, has not been admitted by systematists, and the name seems to have been discussed only twice in the literature, firstly by Grant, *Ibis*, 1915, pp. 261, 262, and secondly by Friedmann, *U.S. Nat. Mus. Bull.*, No. 153, 1930, p. 376. Currently only two races of the Lilac-breasted Roller *C. caudata* are recognised, these being *C. c. caudata* Linnaeus, 1766: Angola, and *C. c. lorti* Shelley, 1885: plateau south of Berbera, northern Somalia, the latter well differentiated on the basis of having the white streaked lilac area of the ventral surface restricted to the fore-throat and adjacent lateral areas. Nominotypical *C. caudata*, as at present understood, occupies the greater part of the species' range, extending from Natal and the Orange River in South Africa, north to Angola, the southern Congo, Uganda, Kenya, and south-western Somalia. A recent study of material from much of the range of the present *C. c. caudata* suggests the existence of an unequivocal basis for Neumann's proposal to sub-divide the typical race of this roller as outlined in *Journ. f. Ornith.*, vol. iv, 1907, p. 593, these investigations now necessitating the critical re-appraisal of *C. c. suahelica*. Neumann, *loc. cit.*, differentiated *C. c. suahelica* from *C. c. caudata* on the grounds of a darker nuance to the blue of the rump, upper tail- and lesser wing-coverts, a character which seems to have eluded later students.

The type-locality of *C. c. suahelica* is Usagara (or Sagara according to the *Times Atlas*, vol. iv, 1956, pl. 92), which general area lies immediately to the south of a line Dodoma-Kilosa in eastern Tanzania. A series of specimens in the collection of the Durban Museum, taken for us in 1964 by Mr. T. E. Irwin, at Kilwa Kivinje and Kilwa Masoko, immediately to the south-east of Sagara and on the coast, differs quite markedly from a like sample from Angola, the type-locality, as follows: frons and supercilia clearer and less buffy white; blue-green of head-top, nape and hind neck darker (Deep Dull Yellow-Green [2], *vide* Ridgway, *Color Standards and Color Nomenclature*, 1912, pl. xxxii, as against Chromium Green [same pl.], the basal surface of each feather less buffy), the tips of the feathers tending to bleach or metamorphose to a clearer, less greenish, blue. Mantle, scapulars and tertials much darker and more saturated olive-brown (Saccardo's Umber [pl. xxix], as opposed to Buffy Brown [pl. xl]), the green fringing duller, less yellow. In the wings, the dark ultramarine is less restricted to the lesser wing-coverts in series, tending to be more bled into the caerulean of the median and greater coverts, while on the lower back and rump the blue is darker (as originally claimed by Neumann) (about

Azurite Blue [pl. ix] as against Smalt Blue [same pl.] in *C. c. caudata*), this also more bled through the upper tail-coverts and less distinctly zoned. There is also a fairly well-marked and convincing size difference, East African coastal birds having the flattened wing (of 10 ♂♀) 159–166 (170) (163.7), in contrast to 166–177 (171.5) mm. in 10 ♂♀ from Angola and northern South-West Africa.

The darker, more olive, less buffy, brown mantle, scapulars and tertials and smaller size seem to be the most reliable criteria of all those listed above in support of the discreteness of *C. c. suahelica*, the range of which appears to be from the coast of Kenya, south through eastern Tanzania to northern Moçambique, southern Malawi (mainly from Chiromo, on the lower Shirè River, where intergrading with *C. c. caudata*), and perhaps as far south on the coast as the Save River in southern Moçambique. Some eastern Zambian specimens (mainly from about Fort Jameson) show a marked shift towards *C. c. suahelica* in having a darker brown dorsal facies, though others from the same locality are typical of *C. c. caudata*. From Inhambane southwards the populations are certainly similar in dorsal coloration to *C. c. caudata*, though many birds are small in size as in *C. c. suahelica*, with the wings 166 mm. and below. The small proportions of many southern Moçambique examples of *C. c. caudata* seem to have no taxonomic significance, however, as many examples with wings in excess of 170 mm. are available from this same region, the dates of which are suggestive that they were not wintering birds of the interior plateau populations in the first instance. It seems the wing-length variable in these littoral populations has a wider spectrum than in those from more western aspects of the range. As the majority of southern Moçambique littoral birds is small sized, it seems that selection is favouring the small sized phenotype in this region, as it likewise does in the populations embraced in *C. c. suahelica*, which is the race of the humid low-lying coastlands of East Africa.

The range of *C. c. caudata* may be redefined as South-West Africa, the northern Cape Province, Bechuanaland, Rhodesia, the Transvaal, northern Orange Free State, Moçambique south of *C. c. suahelica*, Swaziland, Zululand, and Natal (occasional), northwards to Angola, the southern Congo, Zambia, western Malawi, western Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya back from the coast and south of the range of *C. c. lorti*, and south-western Somalia.

For the loan of recently collected specimens from Angola—topotypes of *C. c. caudata*—I am deeply grateful to Dr. A. A. da Rosa Pinto, Ornithologist of the Instituto de Investigação Científica de Angola, at Sá da Bandeira, Huila, Angola. I must also thank Mr. T. E. Irwin for his efforts in bringing the Kilwa, Tanzania, series of *C. c. suahelica* together.

A new name for *Geocichla princei graueri* Sassi

by B. P. HALL

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Prigogine (1965) has shown that *Geocichla princei graueri* Sassi should be regarded as a valid subspecies of *Geocichla camaronensis*.

Many authors submerge *Geocichla* in *Turdus*. When this is done *graueri*